

Francis E. Baird
206 Radnor Chester Road
Villanova, PA 19085

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing in full support of the recent antitrust settlement between the US Department of Justice and Microsoft. Although I am happy to see that Microsoft will not be broken up, I believe the current penalties are still too harsh.

I am an avid believer in free market enterprise. Microsoft continually outdid its competitors by developing better products and services faster. This is called free market competition and Microsoft's efforts only served to increase the rate of growth in the industry. They should be applauded for their efforts not criticized.

I sincerely hope that the remaining nine states opposing Microsoft's actions drop litigation immediately and allow the IT sector to focus on business which is in the best interest of the American public, especially in this time of recession.

Sincerely,



Francis Baird

cc: Senator Rick Santorum